

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01
AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /134 W
-----100819Z 121153 /17

P 091425Z FEB 77
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2228

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ACTION STR

PASS USITC FOR HART

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GATT, MTN, ETRD
SUBJECT: DATA BASE FOR TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY. AT REQUEST OF GATT DEPUTY DIRECTOR PATTERSON, DELS FROM KEY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (EC, CANADA, NORDICS, SWITZERLAND, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, U.S.) MET FEB. 7 TO DISCUSS DRAFT NOTE BY SECRETARIAT AIMED AT IMPROVING THE DATA BASE FOR TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS. NOTE WILL BE CIRCULATED DESPITE PROBLEMS VOICED BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT DEC. 1976 MEETING OF THE TARIFFS GROUP, THE SECRETARIAT WAS INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE A NOTE DETAILING WAYS IN WHICH THE DATA BASE FOR THE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE IMPROVED (PARA 7, MTN/TAR/8). DRAFT NOTE CIRCULATED TO KEY DELEGATIONS IN LATE JANUARY RAN INTO UNEXPECTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS VOICED BY SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS, PARTICULARLY JAPAN, AND PATTERSON CALLED MEETING FEB. 7 TO CLARIFY PROBLEMS SO NOTE COULD BE DISTRIBUTED BY SECRETARIAT.

3. MAIN AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT WERE SECRETARIAT'S INVITATION TO DELS TO (1) UPDATE THE TARIFF RATE INFORMATION FILE (TRIF) AND IMPROVE EXISTING TRIF SUBMISSIONS,

(2) EXCHANGE LATEST OFFICIAL TARIFFS, AND (3) SUBMIT CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULES TO GATT AND INTERESTED DELEGATIONS.

4. UPDATING TRIF -- SWEDEN FOR NORDICS (LEMMEL) AND SWITZERLAND (EBERHARD) CITED TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THE SUBMISSION OF CURRENT AD VALOREM EQUIVALENTS, BUT AGREED TO UPDATE. JAPAN (MIYAKE) ON THE OTHER HAND, REFUSED AGAIN TO IMPROVE ITS SUBMISSION BY INCLUDING DESCRIPTIONS IN ITS TRIF, CITING ONCE AGAIN THE PROBLEM OF TRANSLATION, COMPUTER FORMAT FOR DESCRIPTIONS AND SEVERAL OTHER SPURIOUS REASONS. U.S. (MANAMARA), EC (DUGIMONT) AND SECRETARIAT (TILL) SUGGESTED THAT THESE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS COULD BE OVERCOME (WITH MINIMUM EFFORT BY JAPANESE) BY MINOR CHANGES IN TRIF FORMAT, BUT JAPANESE REMAINED INTRANSIGENT. AUSTRALIANS ALSO STATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT UPDATE TRIF UNTIL BASE RATE ISSUE IS RESOLVED.

5. EXCHANGE OF OFFICIAL TARIFFS -- FOR SAME REASON, LACK OF AGREEMENT ON BASE DATE, AUSTRALIA WOULD NOT AGREE TO BILATERAL EXCHANGE OF LATEST PRINTED TARIFFS, ALTHOUGH AS WE POINTED OUT, AUSTRALIA HAD ALREADY INFORMALLY EXCHANGED THEM WITH THE UNITED STATES. SWITZERLAND CITED COST OF PRINTING ADDITIONAL TARIFFS AS PROBLEM AND DOUBTED THAT GOS HAD ENOUGH EXTRA COPIES OF TARIFF TO DISTRIBUTE TO ALL MTN MEMBERS. SWEDEN MADE SIMILAR COMMENTS.

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6. CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS -- U.S. SAID THAT SECRETARIAT INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF OFFICIAL CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULES SHOULD BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE EXCHANGE OF UNOFFICIAL SCHEDULES WHERE COUNTRIES WERE NOT YET PREPARED TO SUBMIT OFFICIAL SCHEDULES, NOTING SOME SUCH EXCHANGES HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE. WE AGAIN CAUTIONED THAT U.S. DRAFT CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE XX IS OUT OF DATE, BUT NOTED THAT U.S. WAS REVIEWING THE QUESTION. SECRETARIAT INDICATED THAT ONLY SIX COUNTRIES HAVE UP-TO-DATE GATT CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULES WHICH HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED.

7. PATTERSON CONCLUDED THAT A MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS COULD MEET REQUEST IN SECRETARIAT NOTE AND THAT, EXCEPT FOR SOME WODING CHANGES (INCLUDING U.S. SUGGESTION TO INCLUDE CIRCULATION OF UNOFFICIAL CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULES), NOTE WOULD BE ISSUED AS ORIGINALLY DRAFTED.

8. U.S. RAISED TOPIC OF MANAGEMENT OF TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS, INDICATING THAT THERE WERE OTHER OUT-STANDING MANAGEMENT QUESTIONS IN ADDITION TO DATA BASE THAT NEEDED SECRETARIAT'S AND GROUP'S ATTENTION ONCE MAJOR DECISIONS ARE MADE. THESE INCLUDED SUCH QUESTIONS AS INITIAL NEGOTIATING RIGHTS, TREATMENT OF FISCAL DUTIES, AND FORMAL FOR SUBMISSION OF OFFERS AND EXCEPTIONS. AUSTRALIA ADDED THAT SUCH QUESTIONS AS PROCEDURES FOR TARIFF NONFORMULA COUNTRIES AND FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS ALSO NEEDED CONSIDERATION. PATTERSON AGREED THAT THESE ITEMS NEEDED ATTENTION AND DIRECTED HIS STAFF TO CONSIDER THEM.

9. AT U.S. SUGGESTION, EC AGREED TO HOST MEETING OF SAME GROUP OF COUNTRIES AND SECRETARIAT EARLY NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS MORE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WITH TRIF. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS, INFORMATION CONTROL, TARIFF DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Subject: DATA BASE FOR TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PORG, ETRD, GATT, MTN
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